

To whom it may concern,

As a resident of Connecticut I strongly oppose the bill HB05653: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EXCISE TAX ON AMMUNITION TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY GUN VIOLENCE AND INTERVENTION PROGRAM GRANTS. "

Year after year legislation like HB05653 is submitted, and year after year it fails because it is severely problematic and misguided, if not malicious, towards the right to bear arms and self defense which is codified in both the state and federal constitution.

The tax that is proposed would be the equivalent of a 20% tax on the most popular, common, and affordable ammunition out there for self defense (9mm, .223, .45). This would be on top of the 11% tax that already exists on firearms and ammunition in the state, and on top of sales tax. That means if such legislation were to pass the effect tax on ammunition would be over 30% for the majority of firearm owners.

A tax such as this would make it a financial burden to practice with their firearms, not only making those who own firearms less proficient and safe with them, but also making owning, and practicing with firearms cost prohibitive. Therefore this type of legislation makes self defense a luxury or privilege rather than a right.

Firearms in the state of Connecticut are already regulated and restricted to a level which very few states in the country can even compare. Firearm owners in the state of Connecticut already have to pay fees for licensing and permits, as well as attend classes, and fill out copious paperwork to be able to own firearms. Taxes like this are just backdoor attempts to ban firearms through a war of attrition by slowly adding more and more financial burdens to firearms owners so they are slowly taxed out of practicality and eventually existence.

I urge all of you to oppose this bill, and any bill like it that we see in the future, as it is an unnecessary and dishonest attempt at further regulating firearms ownership out of existence. This is not a bill that represents the desires of Connecticut residents, but rather is an example of politicians pushing an agenda and disrespecting the rights of the people.

If funding is truly needed for violence intervention, then bills must be proposed in which that burden is shared by all, since it is well documented that the majority of violence has root causes in socio-economic conditions, upward economic mobility, and access to healthcare.

Thank you for your time,

Travis Marshall